

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2006

LB 965

eating up our budget and our income in the state of Nebraska. We have to do something and they are working on that. They've got a fraud task force working to try to eliminate the fraud. There's a lot of fraud in Medicaid because people are trying to get rid of...getting rid of their assets so that the taxpayers can support them. And the situation is, I'm glad this is part of the bill. I do support the bill, of course, and this amendment. I have...used to sell insurance and you don't sell something you don't believe in. I bought long-term care long time ago and hope I never have to use it. I hope I bought insurance to stay healthy. But the situation is, people don't realize how much it takes to live in a nursing home. You...\$165,000 is a good start, I think, because \$165,000 will not last very long if you're in a nursing home for a period of time. I know most people are in there for just a short period of time, about three years. The insurance I purchased will not take care of all of a nursing home situation because I believe that it will take care of most of it and I think people should use their assets for the balance if they have assets. I don't believe that we should turn that over to the taxpayers. And as far as I'm concerned, any assets people have, it should be used for them first and what's left, gladly leave it to your heirs; you know, not have the taxpayers setting up accounts for the heirs. The only thing is, with this particular amendment, I think it probably should start earlier because the younger you are, the cheaper health insurance, I mean, the Medicare supplement is. And more and more people can qualify for it because normally they're healthier. As you get a little older, because of the medical situation in our country now, we are living longer and longer and longer. And of course, with living longer and longer and longer, there's more things wear out and more things occur to you where you're not eligible to actually buy the insurance. So I believe 62 is probably a good start, but I think if you lower the age to...I could care less what age it is, it could be 25, and as long as they're buying it and keeping it where they could deduct it, you know. So I think it's high time that we are doing this. And I do believe, no matter what it's costing, maybe a little over \$1 million or so as far as in our receivables, the savings in the long run is going to be...just outdo that multiple times. So I think it's a very, very good bill, very good amendment. The only thing is, I